



Maintaining Alliances and a Change of Pace

KABUL, Afghanistan ñ Patrols in the greater Kabul area for Soldiers of the Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix Security Force (SECFOR) are routine, and have the potential to become monotonous. For those who have the opportunity, joint patrols with British Soldiers can be an important change of pace.

Lieutenant Brian Hammond, a British officer out of Camp Souter in Kabul, knows the importance of such patrols for the members of his unit. ìIt enables us to give some of our Soldiers time off from a busy patrol program, so they are glad for that.î In addition, joint patrolling ìhelps maintain relations between our armies and nations.î he added.

At Camp Phoenix, the SECFORís Claw Company Soldiers also appreciate the opportunity the patrols provide to learn how their British counterparts run similar missions. ìThe British go out with more people, keep more space and have better communication,î said Spc. Brian Spurgeon, of Orlando, FL.

According to members of Claw Company, the biggest difference in U.S. and U.K. patrols is the overall tone of the mission. Staff Sgt. David Sexton, of Jacksonville, Fla., explained, ìThe Brits have a much more laid-back attitude toward doing this than we do. îOn a recent patrol into downtown Kabul, Spe. Abderrahman Boutkhil, of Panama City, Fla., witnessed this laid-back approach first hand.



Staff Sgt. Timothy Clay from St. Augustine, Fla. (center background) interacts with Afghan children on patrol in downtown Kabul while his British counterpart keeps a watchful eye on the neighborhood.

Photo by Sgt. Scott Gurley
Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix

Maintaining Alliances and a Change of Pace

At one point during the patrol, the British lieutenant in charge stopped to play cricket with some local children. "That would never happen with us," Boutkhil said. "If we just stop and play cricket, or whatever, you would have to write a ten-page essay on why you did it."

The same attitude the British Soldiers displayed outside the wire remained back in their billets. "Even when we went to their b-huts, it was pretty relaxed," said Spec. Jonathan Garcia, of Hollywood, Fla. Garcia further explained that the British Soldiers made them feel at home, amidst relentless bantering about how U.S. Soldiers are not allowed any alcohol in theater.

Along with a more relaxed mind-set and British hospitality, joint patrols offer Claw Soldiers an appreciated change of scenery. British patrol routes go through downtown Kabul, which stands in dramatic contrast to the rural towns in the U.S. sector. "I think they intentionally made it as good as they could for us because they know that we don't go down there," Staff Sgt. Timothy Clay, of St. Augustine, said in reference to a recent patrol. "Just like if they came here we'd make sure we took them to the worst spots and the most scenic route."

Opportunities for joint patrols are rare for SECFOR Soldiers, and when they come around, most of them jump at the chance. New routes, scenery, and different ways of thinking make such patrols attractive to Soldiers usually confined to the same square mile area for a yearlong tour. It is just one more way Soldiers from CJTF Phoenix are changing their routine in order to avoid the complacency that can lead to unexpected and undesired experiences.

Story by U.S. Army Sgt. Scott Gurley Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix PAO

Working with the ANA in Kunar Province

KUNAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan ñ Less than five miles from the border with Pakistan, members of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix continue their mentoring mission at Asadabad with soldiers of the ANA 201st Corps. This rugged region is dominated by the mountains that loom over the Kunar River.

In early 1979, before the Soviets occupied Afghanistan in large numbers, a guerrilla force of Afghan refugees based in Pakistan attacked and seized the army garrison in Asadabad. Although they were eventually forced out, their initial success was one of the earliest against the communist supported government of the country.

During the ten-year war with the Soviets, the mujahadeen organization Hezb-i-Islami used Kunar as a base of operations. Its leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyr, had close connections with many of the local leaders. Today, members of this organization, along with groups of former Taliban, still are linked to troubles in this Pashtun tribal area.

Another pressing problem for the Afghan government is the illegal logging that is stripping the Kunar Forest, one of the most beautiful woodland regions, and a national treasure, of Afghanistan. Since the fall of the Taliban, who tried to control the deforestation, thieves under the protection of local tribal and political leaders and sponsorship of Pakistani business partners have left large portions of the Forest treeless.

Maj. Robert "Bob" Wilson, an Air



Monument to Sgt. Jeremy Wright, 1st Special Forces Group, who was killed in action near Asadabad in January 2005.

Photo by Lt. Col. Gregory Moore
Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix PAO

Working with the ANA in Kunar Province

Force ibratî who has 26 years of service in the New Mexico National Guard, is one of the senior ETTs at Asadabad. Back home in Albuquerque he is the State Family Program Director for the Guard. Wilson has been in country since September 2005 and loves what we are doing here. He works with a great ANA S-3, he said. He is young, has great common sense, and displays good military knowledge.

1st Sgt. Guy Cobb, from New Castle, Ind., has been in Afghanistan since February 2005. He was first sergeant of an Infantry company in Bosnia in 2004, and will have 30 years of military service in April 2006.

Under his tutelage, the ANA have been running non-stop combat operations since they arrived at Asadabad in May 2005. They have seen great team effort on the part of the ANA, said Cobb. They have been under fire and done well. It is now time for some R&R and good NCO training.

Sgt. First Class David Stanek, who has been a traditional Guardsman in Nebraska since 1996, also had four years of service with the United States Marine Corps, including time with



Maj. Bob Wilson (left), Sgt. First Class David Stanek (second from right), and 1st Sgt. Guy Cobb (right) pass on a highly classified list to a special holiday visitor at Asadabad

Photo by Lt. Col. Gregory Moore
Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix PAO

G Company, 2nd Battalion 3rd Marine Regiment during Desert Shield/Desert Storm. The Roca, Neb. resident gives high marks to the ANA for their work ethic. These ANA soldiers are dedicated, and perform well as a team, he observed. We had a few problems with ethnic diversity in the beginning, but they have been resolved.

The hard work of U. S. forces and ANA soldiers in Kunar Province is paying off as more Taliban and former Hezb-i-Islami members come in to reconcile with the legitimate Afghan government.

Story by U. S. Army Lt. Col. Gregory Moore, Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix PAO

Hamid Karzai

Hamid Karzai, the first President of Afghanistan elected directly by the people of the country on October 9, 2004, was born to a distinguished family of the Popalzai tribe of Pashtun people in 1957. His grandfather served in the Afghan army during the country's war of independence against Great Britain, and later was Deputy Speaker of the Senate. His father also served in the Afghan Parliament under King Mohammad Zahir Shah, and was Khan of the Popalzai tribe. Karzai was a student at Simla University in Pakistan when the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979.

In 1983, after earning a master's degree in international relations and political science, he joined the mujahadeen where he earned respect as an advisor and diplomat on behalf of the resistance fighters. President Burhanuddin Rabbani appointed Karzai Deputy Foreign Minister following establishment of the mujahadeen government in 1992, but he resigned his position and left Kabul when fighting between the various mujahadeen factions intensified. For a short time, Karzai aligned himself with the Taliban, and was even offered the post of United Nations ambassador. The murder of his father in August 2000 by Taliban agents, however, resulted in a dramatic act of defiance against the Pakistan and Taliban governments when he led a convoy of tribal mourners



Continued from Page 3>

with Abdul Karzai's body from Quetta to Kandahar for burial in tribal ground. This pushed him to the forefront as a Pashtun leader of resistance against the Taliban. In October 2001, Karzai re-entered Afghanistan and joined in the effort to oust Mullah Omar and his regime. He was wounded by a stray American bomb and narrowly escaped capture by the Taliban, but eventually helped negotiate their surrender of Kandahar.

On December 5, 2001, participants at the UN-sponsored Bonn Conference elected Karzai Chairman of the Interim Administration of Afghanistan, and on June 13, 2002, the Emergency Loya Jirga elected him as President of the Transitional Government. Despite several attempts on his life, Hamid Karzai continues to secure the support of his countrymen and the international community as he leads the effort to rebuild Afghanistan.

Story by U. S. Army Lt. Col. Gregory Moore,
Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix PAO

Hamid Karzai



President Hamid Karzai at a graduation ceremony in 2002 for cadets from various military colleges in Kabul.

Photo by Zainal Abd Halim
Reuters/Timepix/Academy of Achievement

The Phoenix Sun, a weekly publication of Coalition Joint Task Force Phoenix in Afghanistan, is published each Saturday. Printed circulation is 1,000 copies per week.

Task Force Commander is Brig. Gen. John M. Perryman
Public Affairs Officer is Lt. Col. Gregory Moore

Contents of the Phoenix Sun do not reflect the views of, nor are they endorsed by, the United States government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Army. In accordance with AR 360-1, this news magazine is authorized for publication and distribution to members of the United States Armed Forces overseas.

Phoenix Sun Staff:

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Editor in Chief - | Lt. Col. Gregory Moore |
| Editor - | Sgt. Christopher Ortengren |
| Graphics / Media Design - | Spc. Joshua Collins |
| Staff Writers are | Sgt. Henry St. Charles Sgt. Scott Gurley Pfc. Jennifer Fay |